

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 /058 W

----- 059110

R 302218Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7666

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 3694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, XM, MX

SUBJ: CLC POSITION ON ORIT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 08423

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) WILL SUPPORT
PROPOSAL TO CHANGE NAME FOR ICFTU'S LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL
ORGANIZATION, BUT BELIEVES CURRENT LEADERSHIP AND LOCATION
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OF HEADQUARTERS ARE SATISFACTORY. HOPES THAT AGREEMENT

CAN BE REACHED TO OBTAIN RENEWED COMMITMENT TO FREE TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES BASED ON ICFTU CONSTITUTION AND TO ACHIEVE BETTER INTER-AMERICAN CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION. END SUMMARY.

2. CLG INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR JOHN HARKER, WHO WILL SUBSTITUTE FOR CLC PRESIDENT MORRIS AT "AMERICAN AFFILIATES" MEETING IN MEXICO CITY OCT. 11-12, TOLD LABATT THAT HE HAS PREPARED CLC POSITION ON RESTRUCTURING ORIB SUBJECT TO MORRIS' STILL PENDING APPROVAL.

3. IN ESSENCE, CLC PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON CONTINUING ACTIVE PRESENCE OF AFL-CIO IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE LABOR ORGANIZATION. GIVEN CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING NAME ORIT AND LONGSTANDING REFUSAL BY ARGENTINE'S CGT TO JOIN THAT ORGANIZATION, CLC NOW PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH SIMPLE CHANGE OF NAME IF MAJORITY OF LATIN AMERICANS FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT IT AND CGT CAN BE PERSUADED TO JOIN RENAMED INTER-AMERICAN LABOR CENTRAL. REMOVING HEAD-QUARTERS FROM MEXICO WOULD BE USELESS EXPENSE AND SLAP AT MEXICANS ESPECIALLY SINCE ICFTU CONGRESS WILL BE HELD THERE. CLC AWARE OF EUROPEAN OPPOSITION TO AND ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL KERSTEN'S DISLIKE FOR ORIT SECRETARY GENERAL ETCHEVERRY BUT CONSIDER HIM GOOD ADMINISTRATOR (HE ELIMINATED ORIT INDEBTEDNESS) ALTHOUGH WEAK ON COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH AFFILIATES. WHILE OPPOSED TO ANY MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF ORIT CLC WOULD LIKE TO SEE A STRONG AND WIDELY PUBLICIZED COMMITMENT TO FREE AND DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES "IN ACCORDANCE WITH ICFTU CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTIVES". HARKER HOPES THAT AFL-CIO WOULD GO ALONG WITH REFERENCE TO ICFTU. FINALLY, CLC WANTS AMELIORATION OF POLICY COORDINATION AND MORE EFFECTIVE INTER-AMERICAN CONSULTATION AMONG ALL AFFILIATES. ONE PROPOSAL TO THIS END WOULD BE MORE FREQUENT AND BETTER PREPARED MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE ORGANS.

4. CANADIAN VICE PRESIDENT OF STEELWORKERS WILLIAM MAHONEY WILL NOT ATTEND "AMERICAN AFFILIATES" OCT. 11-12 MEETING AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. HIS ABSENCE FROM THIS PREPARATORY MEETING WILL NOT BE REGRETTED BY MORRIS WITH WHOM MAHONEY DIFFERS ON MANY ISSUES.

5. EMBASSY WILL REPORT IF CLC PRESIDENT MORRIS DECIDES ON ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN HARKER'S DRAFT POSITION PAPER.
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Message Attributes

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